

Grammar Review

Comparing Articles

Earth

- Definite article → Common noun as a thing/place
- Zero article → Proper noun as the name of the planet (capital letter)

EXAMPLES

The earth is round
Earth is next to Mars

EXAMPLES

Would you like to visit space?
The space is very small

Space

- Zero article → Space in the universe OR an unspecified uncountable distance between two things
- Definite article → Specified, previously mentioned or obvious distance between two things

School

- Zero article → Generic noun, concept of school
- Definite article → Specified, previously mentioned or obvious school

EXAMPLES

I go to school every day
I'll ring the school later!

EXAMPLES

He is in prison for arson
I went to a prison today
I went to the prison today

Prison/Jail

- Zero article → A prisoner
- Indefinite article → A visitor to a random, unspecified jail
- Definite article → A visitor to a specified, previously mentioned jail

Hospital

- Zero article → A patient
- Indefinite article → A visitor to a random, unspecified hospital
- Definite article → A visitor to a specified, previously mentioned hospital

EXAMPLES

She's ill in hospital
I've never been to a hospital
She works in the hospital

EXAMPLES

We go to university together
I'll meet you at the university
I go to The University of York

University/College

- Zero article → A teacher/student
- Definite article → Location OR name of the university

EXAMPLES

I go to church every Sunday
I went to the church today

Church

- Zero article → Attending for religious reasons
- Definite article → Location

Bed

- Zero article → Prolonged period of time
- Definite article → Piece of furniture

EXAMPLES

She's in bed
She's on the bed

We can change somebody's title too. Delete the name, add the definite article and change to lowercase.
Doctor Owens → The doctor